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Action

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 282, INFORMATION PARIS 56.

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1. MORNING PRESS HAS IN GENERAL REACTED WITH FIRM EXPRESSION UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S OCT 22 SPEECH ON CUBA. VARIOUS PAPERS POINT OUT THAT SPEECH HAS REMOVED ALL DOUBT ABOUT US STAND. FOR EXAMPLE, CATHOLIC DE VOLKSGRAFT, WHICH USUALLY REFLECTS GOVT LINE, WROTE THAT "THE NEW AMERICAN MEASURES WILL OF COURSE RAISE A STORM OF PROTEST FROM SOVIET UNION AND ITS SATELLITES. BUT THE ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH ON EARLIER OCCASIONS WERE CRITICAL OF THE CONTROL MEASURES PLANNED BY THE US ON FOREIGN SHIPPING WILL BE ACTING WISELY IN REFRAINING FROM CRITICIZING THE LATEST MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT. FOR IN HIS ADDRESS PRESIDENT KENNEDY CITED NEW DEVELOPMENTS WHICH ARE LENDING A VERY CRITICAL CHARACTER TO THE SITUATION IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA, WHICH NOT ONLY FORMS A DANGER TO THE UNITED STATES BUT ALSO TO THE US."

OTHER IMPORTANT PAPERS REFLECTED SIMILAR LINE. 2. IN REPLY QUESTIONS ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S STATEMENT, LOCAL NEWS SERVICES QUOTED FONCFF SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT, "AS AN INITIAL REACTION", HE COULD SAY "IT IS FULLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE AMERICANS FIND THEMSELVES IN A POSITION WHICH REQUIRES ACTION. NATURALLY, THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SPEECH WHICH WILL REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY. IN ANY CASE, IT IS GRATIFYING THAT THE US HAS MADE ITS POLICY SO CLEAR THAT ALL PARTIES KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY STAND." 3. AT OPENING SECOND CHAMBER OCTOBER 23, PRIMMIN DE QUAY WAS ASKED BY LABOR OPPOSITION LEADER IF GOVT COULD STATE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ACTION OF ITS NATO ALLY US IN CUBA MATTER. PRIMMIN REPLIED THAT HE HAD LEARNED THE

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15 MINUTES BEFORE THAT FOREGOING QUESTION WAS TO BE ASKED AND THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD YET HAD TIME TO STUDY MATTER, PRIMMEN ADDED THAT HE HAD LEARNED SHORTLY BEFORE 12 O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT (7.00PMEST) THE MAJOR POINTS OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, HAD READ PORTIONS IN DUTCH PRESS THIS MORNING, BUT HAD NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY FULL TEXT IN DUTCH OR ENGLISH. MATTER WAS MUCH TOO IMPORTANT FOR IMPROMPTU REACTION. ASKED BY COMMIE MEMBER IF GOVT WOULD PUBLICLY STATE ITS POSITION LATER, DE QUAY SAID THIS WOULD DEPEND ON COURSES OF EVENTS. GOVT MIGHT FIND IT PREFERABLE INFORM CHAMBER COMMITTEES. IN REPLY TO STATEMENT BY FONCFF SPOKESMAN (PAR. 3.) PRIMMEN SAID IN REPLY TO QUESTION THAT THIS MUST BE SEEN AGAINST BACKGROUND OF RAPID PAGE OF EVENTS AND IN LIGHT OF FACT GOVT HAD NOT YET HAD CHANCE FOR THOROUGH STUDY NOR HAD YET RECEIVED A REPORT ON EXCHANGES OF VIEWS IN NATO.

COMMENT: PRIMMEN'S PRIVATE REACTION AND THAT OF OTHER GOVT OFFICIALS REPORTED SEPARATELY.

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NOTE: Advance copy to SS-0 10/23/LWH.

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